



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

[Signature]

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/937,776	10/12/2001	Hendrikus Jan Kapaan	110748	7096

7590 03/28/2003

Oliff & Berridge
PO Box 18928
Alexandria, VA 22320

EXAMINER

SICONOLFI, ROBERT

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3683

DATE MAILED: 03/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/937,776	KAPAAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Robert A Siconolfi	3683	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 1.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. Declaration filed on 10/12/01 has been received.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 6-10 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmitt et al (WO 99/14516 the English equivalent of which is U. S. Patent no. 6,315,086) in view of German Document 19736503.

Schmitt et al discloses:

See figure 2 screw mechanism (screw 12-15, nut 11), motor 6 with rotor 10 and stator 9, gear reduction mechanism (planetary gear set 35,36,37,38), radially inward extending flange 28, rolling element bearing 24,25, support shaft 16, brake disk 3, brake pads 4,5

Schmitt et al does not disclose the use of an eccentric gear wheel for the reduction mechanism. German Document 19736503 teaches the use of an eccentric gear wheel for the reduction mechanism in use with a brake mechanism. See figure 3 screw mechanism (screw 14, nut 15), motor not shown but attached to shaft 1, gear reduction mechanism (gear ring 10 with teeth 9, gear wheel 7), brake disk 27, brake pads 28

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use an eccentric gear wheel for the reduction mechanism as taught by German Document 19736503 in the brake device of Schmitt et al as the choice of gear mechanisms is merely a design choice. Furthermore, an eccentric gear wheel setup reduces the number of parts thus reducing costs.

Regarding claim 10, the examiner takes official notice that lubrication is used in screw mechanisms.

4. Claims 4,5, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmitt, as modified, as applied to claims 1-3 6-10 and 12-15 above, and further in view of Halasy-Wimmer et al (U. S. Patent no. 5,829,557).

Schmitt, as modified, is relied upon as above. Schmitt, as modified, does not disclose a positive drive back mechanism. Halasy-Wimmer et al teaches a positive drive back mechanism (spiral spring 23). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a spiral spring positive drive back mechanism as taught by Halasy-Wimmer et al in the brake device of Schmitt et al in order to prevent damage to the mechanism due to failure of the control mechanism.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert A Siconolfi whose telephone number is (703) 305-0580. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10 am-3 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Lavinder can be reached on (703) 308-3421. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Robert A Siconolfi
Examiner
Art Unit 3683

RS
March 24, 2003

Robert A Siconolfi 3/24/03
ROBERT A. SICONOLFI
PATENT EXAMINER